

Saint Thomas More Parish & Academy
4275 Fourth Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20032
Telephone: 202-562-0431 Fax: 202-563-7347
E-mail: stmchurch@comcast.net Website: www.stthomasmoredc.org
School: 202-561-1189

~ February 2, 2020 ~



***Our Focus for 2020: With New Eyes,
A Fresh Vision and Pure Hearts.***

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, x12
Ms. Patricia Hamilton, Pastoral Administrator, x11
Mrs. Mary Waters, Office Assistant, x10
Mr. Gerald Smith, Academy Principal
Ms. Wanda Brooks, Coordinator of Religious Education, x31
Mr. Henry Herrera, Gospel Choir Director
Mrs. Charnetta Dobbins, Youth Choir Director
Mrs. Denese Clay, Glorify Praise Team Director
Mrs. Barbara Elliott, Parish Council Chair
Ms. Diana Brown, Finance Council Chair

Mass Schedule:

Saturday	5:00 pm	(Rectory Chapel)
Sunday	8:45 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Gospel Choir
Weekdays	8:00 am	(Rectory Chapel)

Bulletin Deadline: Items for Sunday's Bulletin must be received via email by 12:00pm Monday in order to have them included in Sunday's publication. Thank you for honoring this important timeline.

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office to register for classes.

Confession: After Sunday Masses, by appointment, or on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 pm in the Rectory.

Marriage: Diocesan policy requires notification to the priest at least six months in advance. Attendance at pre-Cana classes is also required. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Please notify the Parish Office when a member of the parish is in the hospital, nursing home, or is otherwise unable to come to Mass and wishes to receive any of the sacraments.

Religious Education:

Interested in becoming a Catholic? Please contact Fr. Raymond Moore at the Rectory.
CCD Classes: Every Sunday at 10:30am
Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm

The Presentation of the Lord ***Preparing to Hear God's Word***

Reading I: Mal 3:1-4~The One you seek will come to the temple.

Responsorial: Psalm 24~Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord.

Reading II: Heb 2:14-18~He had to become like his brothers and sisters.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40~The child was filled with wisdom; the favor of the Lord was upon him.

Readings for Next Sunday

Is 58:7-10 1 Cor 2:1-5 Mt 5:13-16

DAILY MASS READINGS

Monday:	2 Sam 15: 13-14, 30;16:5-13	Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday:	2 Sam 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a30--19:3	Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday:	2 Sam 24:2, 9-17	Mark 6:1-6
Thursday:	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12	Mark 6:7-13
Friday:	Sir 47:2-11	Mark 6:14-29
Saturday:	1 Kgs 3:4-13	Mark 6:30-34

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday 8:45am In loving memory of Our Ancestors
 11:30am In loving memory of Our Ancestors
 Monday Chester Pearson-Birthday
 Tuesday William Wood-Birthday
 Wednesday Blondinia Brown-Birthday
 Thursday In memory of Margaret Slye
 Friday In memory of Doris & Dcn. Martin-Prayer Gp
 Saturday Our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners/Loved Ones

PLEASE KEEP THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Shirley Adams, Veronica Apiafi, Monique Bailey, Viola Barnes, Betty Beatty, Shirley Brown, Francillia Browne, Cynthia Bruce, Felicia V. Bush, John Bush, Audrey Caldwell, Jane Cannon, Dixie Clark, Shertia Clark, Odessa Curtis, Frances Davies, Barbara Deale, Barbara DeJesus, Renee Feliu, Diane Finley, Priscilla Fuller, Craig Fulmer, Betty Furr, Tasha Gant, David Garner, Tyrone Garrison, Brenda Green, Zynae Green, Emmanuel Greene, William Gunn, Andre Harris, Margaret Harris, Vance Harris II, June Harrison, Shant'e Hawkins, Maximillon Holland, Elizabeth Holmes, Darryl Jackson, Dr. Jimmie Jackson, Ivy John, Sarah Jones, Seymour & Patrick Jones, David Larison, Dennis Lucas, James Makle, Jr., Gloria & William McCaskill, Emma McEntyre, Betty Moeller, Gloria Morgan, Dorothy Myrtle, Angela Neal, Tammy Peterson, Charles Queen, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Jean, Leroy & Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Thelma Sawyer, Robin Sescoc, Ciara Shields, Brenda Smith, Edsel Swann, Jane Thomas, Mary Travers, Kristine Vivican, Rev. Raymond Wadas, Kayla Warren, Paul Waters, Marilyn Denise Whetstone, Anita Williams, Kobe M. Williams, David Wilson, Jean Wright, Marianne Young, **and all who are Sick/ Shut-In.**

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Your continued prayers are requested for Shirley Adams, Sheila D. Brown, Audrey Caldwell, Frances Davies, Priscilla Fuller, Elizabeth Holmes, Marion & Ruth Richardson, Robert Robinson, Yolanda Rollins, Margaret Spencer, Mary Travers our members who are on the road to recovery, sick, shut-in or grieving; **and Pope Francis, Archbishop Gregory, Fr. Moore, Fr. Casimir, Ed Poindexter & Dcn. Ralph Cyrus.**

YOU ARE INVITED to join with other members of our church family for **Mass at 8:00am weekdays**. We celebrate the Eucharist together daily and extend a gracious invitation for others to join us in the rectory chapel. Mass only lasts 30 minutes.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR CHURCH IS WISE STEWARDSHIP

When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person, when someone is entrusted with a great deal, of that person, more will be expected. (Lk 12:48b)

Father, we bring our offerings now to be joined with those of many others as we cooperate to accomplish your purpose in this world. May every tithe, every gift, and all offerings be magnified by power that they may ably serve your purpose in Christ, Jesus, our Lord. May our generosity be a blessing to others. AMEN!

Stewardship Thought: "You never seem to have more money than when you are giving it away to someone who has less."

Tithes and offerings for **January 26, 2020** amounted to **\$5,299.50; plus Faith Direct-\$4,505.66. Maintenance-\$290.00.**

Attendance	5:00pm	16
	8:45am	179
	11:30am	<u>76</u>
		271

Thanks to all who have so well supported our Growing One Step Stewardship Program. Because of the strong commitment of many of us, we are blessed with good success thus far. May we be blessed as we bless our ministry and commitment to the Lord! **Your on-going contributions are most appreciated!**

FAITH DIRECT! We all strive to be good stewards of our blessings. Over the past months, many of our members now use Faith Direct (e-giving) to fulfill their stewardship commitments to our church. Electronic giving is less expensive than the offertory envelopes. By switching to Faith Direct, we reduce our envelope and postage expenses. Consider joining Faith Direct and support St. Thomas More by using this secure and convenient program. It is simple to start. **Enroll by visiting www.faithdirect.net** to enroll securely on line. **Our parish code is DCC773.**

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Youth Religious Education: Attendance is paramount to all that we teach and learn about Jesus. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30am. Parents desiring their children to receive the sacraments of *Baptism, First Communion, Confession or Confirmation* should enroll their children in our Sunday School Program.

Youth Ministry: Our Youth Ministry Program, for youth who have received the sacrament of Confirmation through the twelfth grade, *meets during the school year* on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the rectory living room. *All youth are encouraged to participate.*

Adult Faith Formation Class Forming: We are presently enrolling adult candidates for *Baptism and reception into the Catholic Church.* Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please complete the registration form in the back of the church and turn in to ushers.

Adult Bible Study: Our Adult Bible Study meets each *Tuesday evening at 7:30pm* in the rectory. *All are welcome to join in our study of God's word.*

PLEASE SUPPORT DEMARCUS MOORE!

DeMarcus will be traveling to France and England with his school **March 31-April 11, 2020.** It would mean a lot if you could help support him on his journey. Any amount would be appreciated. **He is registered at this GoFundMe link: <https://gofundme/f/once-in-a-lifetime-dream-trip-abroad>.**

~ **ELDERS' PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG** ~

*Creator God,
Jesus, our Savior,
Holy Spirit of Wisdom, knowledge and understanding:
Bless our young with
Minds eager to learn,
Memories strong to remember,
Hearts ready to love,
And lives committed to Jesus Christ.
Keep them safe this week under the protection of
Your Grace and Mercy.
This we pray through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Over the past weeks we have been focusing on our vision for 2020: Seeing with new eyes a fresh vision with pure hearts. With these three elements we can see what God is calling each one of us to be and to do. We can have that personal incarnational encounter with the Lord. And like Peter, Andrew, James and John we respond to Jesus' invitation, "Follow me." We are able to commit ourselves to that calling.

Dr. Robert Fury writes of our calling in life in these words, "Your calling may be the answer to a prayer, or it may be the last thing on earth that you want to hear. But even when you are unhappy with your calling, the yearning remains. It asks you to look harder at what it is saying. It guides you to free yourself from your misconceptions and the expectations of others who seek to control your life. Its message is unrelenting. There is a job for you to do in this world and it can only be done by you. If you choose to ignore it, your tasks will never be completed. Your calling may ask you to build, organize, heal, or protect. You may be driven to invent, discover, teach, or explore. Your calling urges you to go where you are needed."

It is when you, with new eyes, can see your calling and commit to it, that you will know success, satisfaction and sanctification. You will be the whole person God designed you to be. You will receive the brighter future, bigger blessings and better life that God has planned for each one of us as we accept his call and commit to it.

Peace and blessing to all!

Father Moore

ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL 2019!

Let's all get behind the 2019 Archdiocese of Washington Annual Appeal. Thus far we have pledged \$ 21,672 toward our goal of \$ 37,045 with only 76 gifts. This is 58.6% of our goal. Our generous support will help drive efforts of faith, hope and mission in the Church of Washington. **Appeal pledge forms are available in the back of the church.**

SODALITY TRIP!

Please join the Sodality for a trip to see "Queen Esther" at Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. Cost: Adults-\$150; Children (2-12 yrs.) \$85. *Payment schedule available on flyers posted in the church.*
Contacts: Laura Brown, 301-899-8099; Margaret Butler, 301-549-1506; Margarine Neal, 202-438-1865.



WELCOME VISITORS!

*We warmly welcome our visitors to
St. Thomas More Church!*

*We invite all who are seeking a church home
to join our church family.*

Please sign our Guest Book located near the entrance.

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE REGISTER!

We welcome all new members and kindly ask that you formally register by completing a Registration Form, which you may obtain from one of our ushers.

*Please keep in your prayers
our young people who are preparing for
Confirmation and First Holy Communion:*



~ Confirmation ~

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Ariana Brooks</i> | <i>Tyree Jones</i> |
| <i>Renee' Douglas</i> | <i>Tyrone Jones</i> |
| <i>Dionni Gillis</i> | <i>Journee Logan</i> |
| <i>Brianna Jean-Charles</i> | <i>Aysha May</i> |
| <i>Gabriel Jean-Charles</i> | <i>James M. Morton III</i> |
| <i>Nahsaan Curtis</i> | <i>DeMarcus Moore</i> |



~ First Communion ~

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Dominique Brooks</i> | <i>Penelope Hawkins</i> |
| <i>Ashwin Gordon</i> | <i>Jonah Kamara</i> |
| <i>Terrence Tyer, Jr.</i> | |

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2019 Contribution Statements totaling \$100.00 or more have been mailed. We are continuing with the Parish Soft recordkeeping program implemented by the Archdiocese.

Please be most attentive to your
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT.

In the event that you have any **questions and/or clarifications please contact Pattie Hamilton via EMAIL at the following e-address :**

HAMISINGS@MSN.COM.

You may also call the church office and leave a message on extension #11.

Thank you for addressing your questions ONLY to Pattie, who is the best person to handle your questions regarding your statements.

Our goal is to ensure that all statements are in alignment.
Thank you for your continued, generous stewardship!

STM SODALITY

Today, February 2, 2020:

***STM Sodality Mass-8:45am. Rosary-8:00am.
Meeting immediately follows 8:45am Mass.***

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



St. Thomas More Catholic Academy

Serving Students in Grades

Pre-K3-8

Catholic Environment

Academically Excellent

Mr. Gerald Smith, Jr., Principal

202-561-1189

Before and After School Care Provided.

~ FLOCK NOTES TECHNOLOGY ~

So far *127* of you have signed up for this new communications tool. Flock Notes has been a very valuable tool for spreading important information about recent events and activities around STM! **Here is how you sign up:**

For those who are “tech savvy”, you may self-register for “Flock Notes” by following these easy steps:

1. Go to your cell phone and create a new text message.
2. Put 84576 in the field.
3. Put stm4265 (all lower case) in the body of text.
4. Hit “Send.”
5. Click the link in the reply message
6. Complete the name page, hit save.
7. Choose your groups, hit next
8. Complete the rest of the fields, hit save.
9. You will receive an email to verify your email address, click verify my email
10. You will receive another email to create a password, click create password
11. Once your password is set it will log you into Flock Notes.

If this does not work for you, please complete the “Joining Flock Notes” form and we will assist you.

**STM FOOD PANTRY
DONATIONS APPRECIATED!
PLEASE HELP US PROVIDE
NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR FAMILIES!**



We are seeking the following items:

~DRY GOODS~

Rice/Pasta/Beans/Hot & Cold Cereal

~CANNED GOODS~

Meat/Tuna/Soup/Fruit/Vegetables

*STM has served as a REFUGE OF RELIEF for many!
Food/Monetary donations will help keep our pantry viable!
Thank You! God Bless!*

SECURITY AWARENESS AND BRIEFING!

We are all responsible for the safety and well-being of one another here in our church. Our security plan consists of three responses to danger. **These are:**

1. **Be aware of your surroundings.**
2. **Report suspicious behavior to Minister of Hospitality.**
3. **Recommended Response:**
 - a) **Run away from danger.**
 - b) **Hide by falling to the FLOOR & under a pew.**
 - c) **Fight the attacker.**

We will be conducting periodic safety training and publishing our procedures in the Sunday Bulletin.

PLEASE REMEMBER: “Be alert. Be safe!”

SHARE INFORMATION!

Value Package- \$22.00.

Schedule for FEBRUARY 2020:

Sign-up ~ Today & February 9, 2020

Pick-up ~ Sat., February 22, 2020, 9-10am

Please also consider making a monetary donation of \$22.00 to provide a SHARE Package to a family in need. If interested, please see any member of our SHARE Team. Thank you!

NOTES FOR TODAY

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	Black History Month-Calling of the Ancestors Religious Ed Classes-(10:30am-Classrooms) Second Chance (3:30pm-Old Library)
Monday	Youth Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Tuesday	Bible Study (7:30pm-Rectory Living Rm) NCW 2 nd Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Wednesday	NCW 1 st Community (8:00pm-Cedar Rm)
Thursday	Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm-Church)
Friday	AA (8:00pm-Old Library)
Saturday	NCW Communities (8:00pm-Church)